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An isopod parasitic on the small hermit crabs found in the vicinity of Woods Hole is described by Millett T. Thompson (*Bulletin United States Fish Commission*, 1901, pp. 53–56, Pls. IX, X). The female parasite is found on the abdomen of the host, the comparatively small male being attached to the marsupium of the female. The isopod, probably representing a new genus allied to *Phryxus resupinatus* Müller, has been named *Stegophryxus hyptius*, the generic name being given in reference to the covering of the female, as it lies upon the host, by its marsupium.

Prof. Carl H. Eigenmann reports on his investigations into the history of the young squeteague of Buzzards Bay and Narragansett Bay (*Bulletin United States Fish Commission*, 1901, pp. 45–51). The young fish are pelagic in habit, subsisting entirely upon shrimp and smaller fish. The report considers further the distribution of the young squeteague, their rate of growth, and the changes accompanying growth, in body proportions and coloration.

Captain Tuttle of the revenue cutter *Bear* has presented to the Museum of Stanford University a pair of native boots which he brought back from a recent visit to the north, and which were made by a native on St. Lawrence Island in the Bering Sea from the skin of a half-grown bull fur seal, taken in the winter of 1900 in the ice adjacent to the island. St. Lawrence Island is 500 miles to the northward of the Pribilof Islands, and it is interesting to note that this is the first time the fur seal has been taken at any considerable distance north of the Pribilof group.

BOTANY.

De Bary's Bacteria.—The wisdom of a third edition of de Bary's *Vorlesungen über Bakterien*[1] so long after the death of its author may well be questioned. New discoveries on every hand have revolutionized old views, and to properly revise such a work would require it to be doubled in size and practically rewritten. This Dr. Migula has carefully refrained from doing. The title-page reads, "Dritte Auflage durchgesehen und teilweise neu bearbeitet von W. Migula," and in the preface apologies are offered for lack of thoroughness on the ground of respect for the memory of the author and for fear of disturbing the form or framework of the book. Changes have been made only "wo sich eine absolut zwingende Notwendigkeit ergab." De Bary, who loved thoroughness so well, would never himself have consented to such a thing. It is safe to say that the book will not please either the reviser or the readers. It is at least questionable whether it is ever wise to revise a book after an author's death, especially when very extensive changes will be necessary to bring it up to date, and in this case it is quite certain that Dr. Migula would have done much better to have written an altogether new book. The first edition of de Bary's *Vorlesungen über Bakterien*, published in 1885, contained 18 woodcuts and 146 pages of text. The new edition contains 41 figures and 186 pages of text. Three new chapters are added dealing with sulphur bacteria, nitrogen bacteria, and the question of immunity, toxins, antitoxins, toxalbumins, etc. The book is about the size of Fischer's *Vorlesungen* and will find a place beside it on the library shelf. It compares very favorably with Fischer's book, but, as in the case of the latter work, the least well-made part of the compilation is that relating to plant diseases. Four diseases only are noticed, and no contribution more modern than Kramer's wet rot of the potato, published in 1892, finds mention. In case of Wakker's hyacinth disease, de Bary's statement that "successful infections and an exact following of the life history of the bacterium are still wanting" is repeated. Under "pear blight," the long exploded statement that the organism produces carbon dioxide, hydrogen, and butyric acid is once more repeated. Under Kramer's "wet rot of the potato," it is thought to be safe to hint that there may possibly be other bacteria capable of producing similar phenomena. Of general statements, the following sufficiently indicate the value of this résumé: "The firm cell membrane of the plant cell is an almost insurmountable obstacle to the bacteria, especially as the very great majority of the bacteria are not able to attack cellulose. It is true that in recent years especially there have been described very many so-called "bacterioses," that is, diseases in plants caused by bacteria, but only a few will stand searching criticism. . . . In the great majority, bacteria are certainly not the cause. . . . Considering the uncertainty and inadmissibility of most of the accounts relative to bacterioses, there is no necessity of inquiring further about diseases which presumably will sooner or later be stricken out of the list of the bacterioses."

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[1] De Bary, A. *Vorlesungen über Bakterien.* Leipzig, Wilhelm Engelmann, 1900.

All of which means that to be a safe guide a man must actually have done something in the particular field which he undertakes to summarize. The book is well made and attractive in appearance.

E. F. S.

A New Elementary Text-Book. — A clear indication of the broadened scope of botanical instruction is afforded by the discarding of class books which only a decade or two ago were sufficient for the purposes of the ordinary teacher. The books that have replaced them are not only very different from their predecessors but from one another. Some are questionably the equals in any respect of those that are dropping out; others, though they have the merit of giving a broadened view of the subject, overshoot the classes they are intended for; still others are as one-sided on a new phase of the science as the older ones were on another.

As long as there is individuality in teachers, universal satisfaction is hardly to be expected from any text-book, and as questions of temperance and cruelty have not yet intruded themselves into the botany of secondary schools, it is probable that individuality in its teachers may long resist the tendency to mechanical uniformity to which many forces contribute with considerable persistency. With any book, however much the teacher may desire to avoid giving the impression that all desirable knowledge is contained between its covers, it is difficult to prevent many pupils from at least tacitly holding this opinion, and good as many of the recent books are, it is to be feared that their use is causing some of the wholesome everyday knowledge of one's dooryard plants of a generation ago to be replaced by a broader and doubtless more scientific, but unfortunately less practically tangible knowledge of vegetation in the abstract.

To meet the undoubted need of a more comprehensive work than Dr. Gray's *Lessons* without losing the advantage of its rational point of view, excellent spirit, and good handling, Mr. Leavitt, at the request of the botanical department of Harvard University, has based on it a little book[1] which appears admirably adapted to the class room, and which, by the introduction of a series of well-devised and simple exercises, makes possible that most desirable of evolutions, — the conversion of the recitation room into a laboratory.

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[1] Leavitt, R. G. *Outlines of Botany for the High School Laboratory and Class-Room.* Based on Gray's *Lessons in Botany.* American Book Company. 272 pp., 383 figs.